

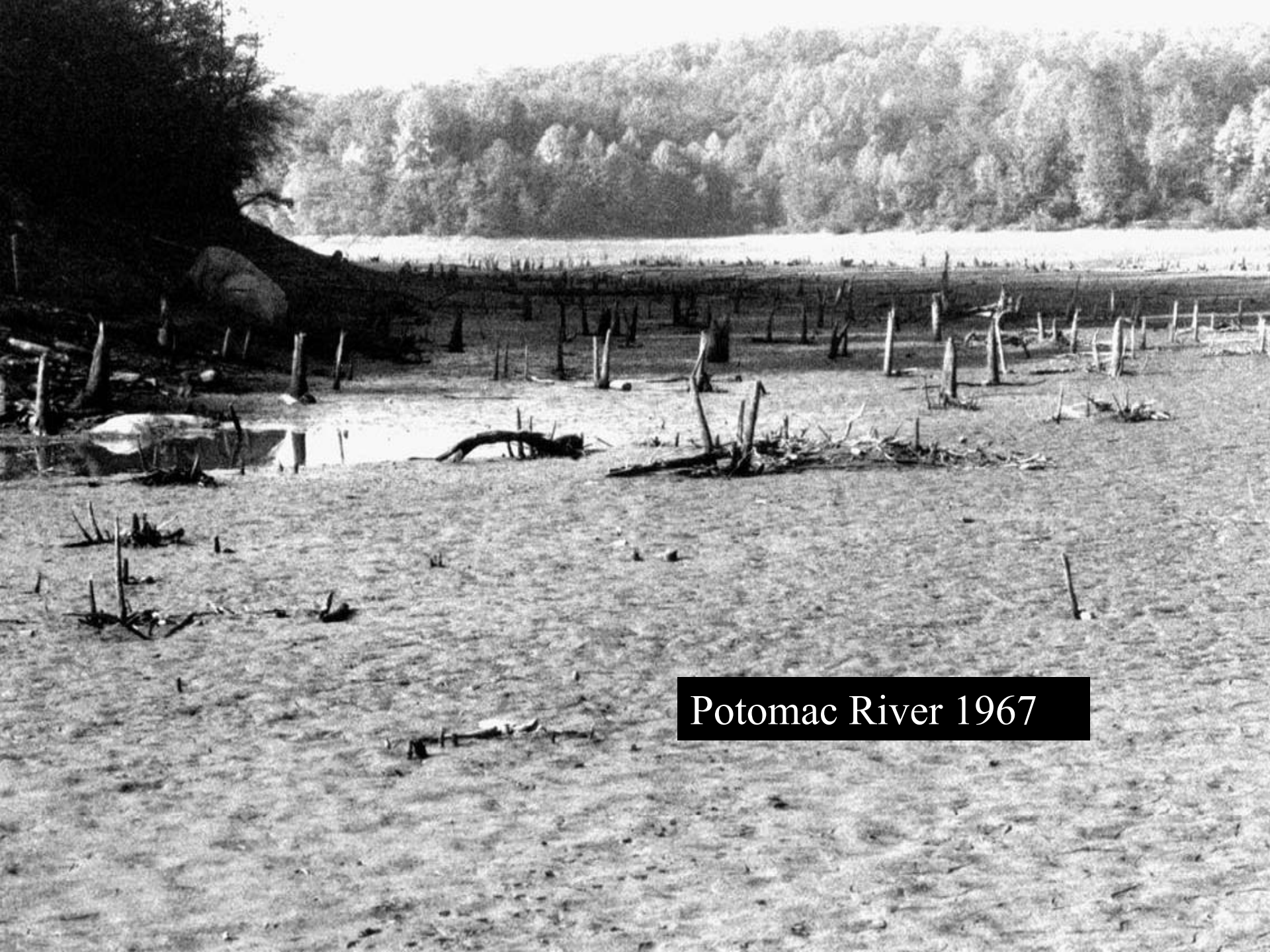
Interstate Water Management in the Potomac River Basin

Jason Ericson

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Water Supply Planning

Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission
March 31, 2010



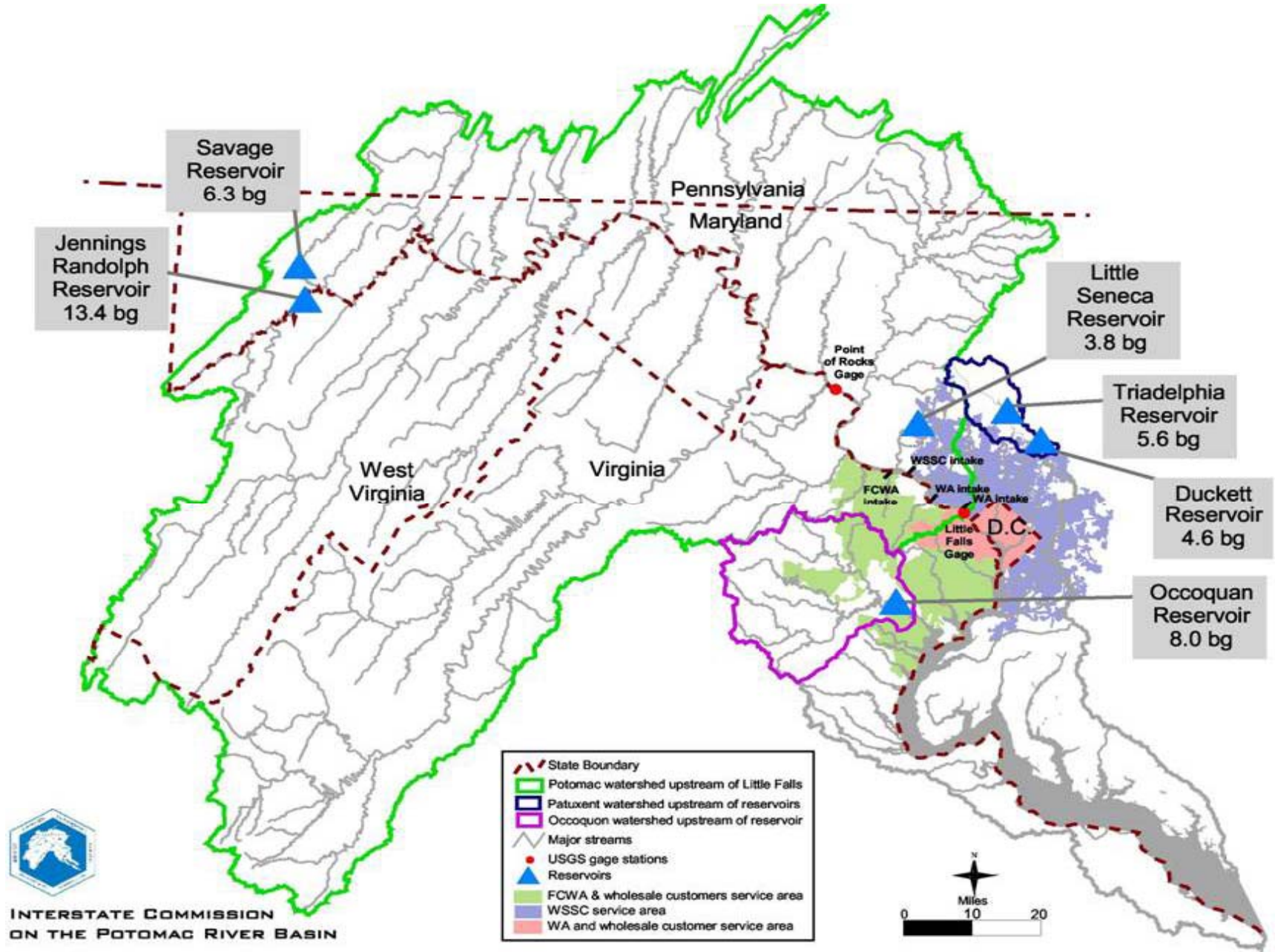


Potomac River 1967

Beginning of Cooperative Approach: 1960s and 1970s

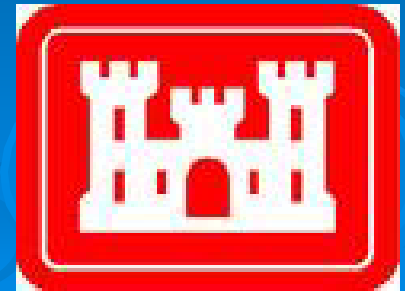
- **1960s Drought**
- **Forecasts of shortage given increasing demands**
- **Proposed structural solutions faced opposition**
 - **Series of 16 reservoirs**
 - **Interbasin transfers**
 - **Pilot estuarine treatment plant**
- **Cooperative management of cumulative resources emerged as preferable alternative**

Potomac River Basin



Key Agreements

- Low Flow Allocation Agreement, 1978
- Water Supply Coordination Agreement, 1982



Low Flow Allocation Agreement (1978)

- Agreement Among Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, USACE, WSSC, and Fairfax Water Authority
- Allocates withdrawals in event of demand exceeding supply
- All signatories are entitled to withdrawal based on their winter water use in a declared restriction or emergency stage as long as 100 mgd flow-by maintained

Low Flow Allocation Agreement (1978)

- Parties consent to having a moderator to enforce the Agreement
- USACE established as the “accountant”
- Signatories meet every April to reaffirm allocations, designated moderator, and flow-by
- State water withdrawal permits shall subject all future users to the Agreement

Water Supply Coordination Agreement (1982)

- Agreement Among District of Columbia, ICPRB, USACE, WSSC, and Fairfax Water Authority
- Establishes the coordinated operation of water resource infrastructure during drought
- Optimizes collective resources to minimize chances of a shortfall
- Releases made in 1999 and in 2002 from Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca Reservoirs

Water Supply Coordination Agreement (1982)

- Established the ICPRB Section for Cooperative Operations on the Potomac River (CO-OP)
 - CO-OP manages the metro DC water supply during drought
 - Governed by LFAA & WSCA
 - Overseen by an “Operations Committee” comprised of the three major DC metro utilities

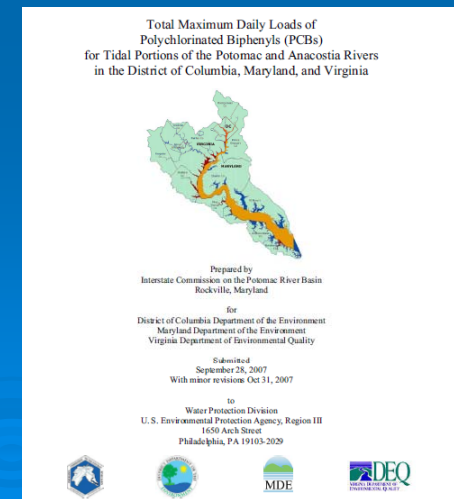
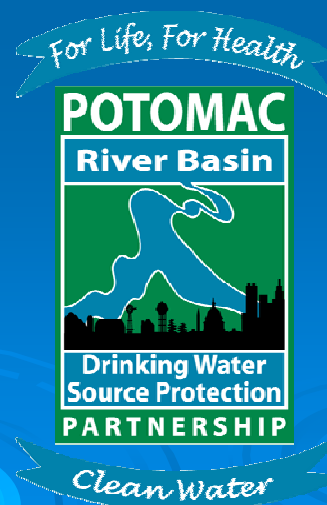
CO-OP Section Functions

- Management of operations in drought years
- Future demand studies every five years
- Water Supply Outlooks
- Annual drought exercises
- Spill model and emergency support
- Research and tool development



Additional State Cooperation

- Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership
 - Voluntary Alliance of 7 agencies, 10 utilities, EPA, USGS, ICPRB
- Joint consumptive use legislation 2007
- Interstate TMDLs
 - PCB



Lessons Learned

- Cooperation between states needs:
 - A crisis
 - An unbiased institution to provide a forum for communication and building trust
 - Other important parties whose interests are advanced by State cooperation
 - A transparent technical foundation
 - Flexibility to needs
 - A success or two to build confidence
- Cooperation between States cannot:
 - Eliminate the impact of politics, rivalry or fear
 - Ensure you will reach consensus on all issues
 - Serve as a substitute for state regulations

Contact Info

Jason Ericson

Jason.Ericson@deq.virginia.gov

(804) 698-4180

www.deq.virginia.gov



Interstate Commission on the Potomac
River Basin

www.potomacriver.org